IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 9-11 and 19-21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 22 and 23 as follows.

1.   (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

utilizing a bearer independent protocol between a server and user equipment in a transmission of a messaging service message from a sender in a first system having a first structure for messages to a receiver of a second system having a second structure for the messages, wherein said bearer independent protocol is above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack.

2.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the message having the first structure in a server comprising an application according to the bearer independent protocol;

converting the message to have a structure of the bearer independent protocol; and

transmitting the converted message from the server to the receiver's equipment using the bearer independent protocol.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, further

comprising:

transmitting the message from the sender's equipment to the receiver's equipment using the bearer independent protocol.

4.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

converting the message to have the second structure when the message transmission to the receiver's equipment fails; and

transmitting the message to the receiver's equipment in the second structure.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the message sent from the sender's equipment according to the bearer independent protocol and having a bearer independent protocol structure in a server comprising an application according to the bearer independent protocol;

converting the received message from the bearer independent protocol structure to the second structure; and

transmitting the converted message from the server to the receiver's equipment.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, further

comprising:

      receiving the message having the bearer independent protocol structure in a server comprising an application according to the bearer independent protocol;

      converting the message to have the second structure; and

      transmitting the converted message from the server to the receiver's equipment.

      7.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

      converting the message to have a structure of the bearer independent protocol when the message transmission of the converted message fails; and

      transmitting the message from the server to the receiver's equipment according to the bearer independent protocol.

      8.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the transmission of the message having a structure of the converted bearer independent protocol comprises:

      storing the content of the message;

      sending an address of the content to the receiver's equipment; and

      reading the content by using the address.

9 -11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

a first system having a first structure for messaging service messages;

a second system having a second structure for the messages; and

a server via which a message is transmitted from the first system to the second

system, wherein

the server is configured to utilize a bearer independent protocol in the transmission

of the message from the first system to the second system,

said bearer independent protocol being above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack,

the system comprises another server configured to utilize a bearer independent

protocol to transmit the message, wherein one of the servers is a first server via which the

message is transmitted from a sender in the first system to the second system and the

other server is a second server via which the message is transmitted from the first system

towards a receiver in the second system,

the first server is configured, in response to receiving the message having the first

structure, to convert the message to have a structure according to the bearer independent

protocol, and to send the converted message to the second server, and

the second server is configured, in response to receiving the message having a

structure according to the bearer independent protocol, to convert the message to have the

second structure before forwarding the message to the receiver.

13.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor configured to utilize a bearer independent protocol in a transmission of a message from a first system having a first structure for messaging service messages to a second system having a second structure for the messages, wherein said bearer independent protocol is above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack.

14.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the processor is configured, in response to receiving the message having the first structure, to convert the message to have a structure according to the bearer independent protocol before forwarding the message.

15.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the processor is configured, in response to receiving a message having a structure according to the bearer independent protocol, to convert the message to have the second structure before forwarding the message.

16.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 3, further comprising:

converting the message to have the second structure when the message transmission to the receiver's equipment fails; and

transmitting the message to the receiver's equipment in the second structure.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:

converting the message to have a structure of the bearer independent protocol when the message transmission of the converted message fails; and

transmitting the message from the server to the receiver's equipment according to the bearer independent protocol.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the transmission of the message having a structure of the bearer independent protocol includes:

storing the content of the message;

sending an address of the content to the receiver's equipment; and

reading the content by using the address.

19 - 21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) A server comprising

at least one processor; and

at least one memory including computer program code;

the at least one memory and the computer program code configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the server to perform at least one of the following:

convert, in response to receiving a message having a first structure for messaging service messages from sender in a first system and targeted to a receiver in a second system having a second structure for the messages. the message to have a structure according to a bearer independent protocol, and to send the converted message to a second server; via which the message is transmitted from the first system towards the receiver in the second system; and

convert, in response to receiving a message having a structure according to the bearer independent protocol from the second server, the message originating from a sender in the second system and targeted to a receiver in the first system, the message to have the first structure before forwarding the message to the receiver; and forwarding the converted message to the receiver in the first system,

wherein said bearer independent protocol is above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack.

23. (New) A method comprising:

receiving a message having a first structure for messaging service messages from sender in a first system and targeted to a receiver in a second system having a second structure for the messages;

converting the message having the first structure to have a structure according to a bearer independent protocol;

sending the converted message having the structure according to the bearer independent protocol to a second server; via which the message is transmitted from the first system towards the receiver in the second system;

receiving a message having a structure according to the bearer independent protocol from the second server, the message originating from a sender in the second system and targeted to a receiver in the first system;

converting the message having a structure according to the bearer independent protocol to have the first structure; and

forwarding the converted message having the first structure to the receiver in the first system,

wherein said bearer independent protocol is above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack.